Trade with Nepal

1981. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL:
SHRI SOHANBEER:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India had recently agreed to grant liberal concession to Nepal in an effort to further boost bilateral trade and joint investment;

(b) if so, the broad features of the official talks held in Kathmandu earlier this month between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal; and

(c) the reaction of the respective Commerce Ministers to the outcome of the discussions at the Commerce Secretary-level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Discussions were held between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal in Kathmandu on 4-7 July, 1996 to suggest measures for promotion of Nepalese exports to India and to promote Indian investment in Nepal.

(b) The issues discussed included liberalisation in the criteria and procedures for preferential entry free of customs duty and quantitative restrictions, for Nepalese manufactured goods into India, improvements in the procedure for levy of countervailing duty on imports from Nepal into India, simplification of procedure for smooth clearance of Nepalese transit cargo through India, transit facilities for Nepal-Bangladesh trade, promotion of Indian joint ventures in Nepal, Establishment of Export Oriented Units/Export Promotion Zones in Nepal with Indian assistance and cooperation to control unauthorised trade.

(c) The understandings arrived at in the said discussions in Kathmandu have been broadly welcomed at the level of the respective Commerce Ministers.

[Translation]

Computerisation in I.T. Deptt.

1982. SHRI SATYADEO SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
DR. RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any proposal regarding the computerisation in Income-Tax Department is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of phases in which the computerisation system will be introduced;

(c) the number and name of the places in the country where this system will be introduced in first phase;

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(e) the time by which the country is likely to get the benefit of this computerisation system?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A programme for comprehensive computerisation is being implemented in the Income-Tax Department in three phases. In the first phase, comprehensive computerisation is being implemented in Delhi, Mumbai and Madras where Regional Computer Centres have been set up. In the second phase, comprehensive computerisation will be extended to the remaining centres in the country along with setting up of the National Computer Centre. In the third phase, all the income-tax offices will be connected to the respective Regionall Computer Centres.

(d) So far a sum of Rs. 31.14 crores has been spent on comprehensive computerisation in the three cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Madras.

(e) The benefits of computerisation start flowing in as various stages of implementation are completed. With passage of time and progress in implementation, the scale of the benefits would grow.

[English]

Switching of Tobacco into Vegeteblee Cultivation

1983. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco companies are using their market share in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many companies have diverted into food processing and have asked tobacco growers to grow vegetables:

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to help those farmers to switching out vegetable cultivation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Tobacco Companies are continuing to purchase their requirements of FCV (Flue Cured Virginia) tobacco for domestic consumption as well as for exports from the auction platforms operated by the Tobacco Board.

(c) and (d). Some tobacco companies have diversified into other areas including food-processing as a part of their overall business strategy and this has not been done by them with a view to replace FCV tobacco crop.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.